addition to projects which are financed by the NEC the Department of Development of North Eastern Region also finances infrastructure projects under the Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR).

The project being funded by NEC and under NLCPR are mainly for physical and social infrastructure which include power, transmission and distribution lines, promotion of agro based industries, construction of roads and bridges, provision and augmentation of water supply, upgradation of airports, improvement of air-connectivity, setting up and maintenance of educational and medical institutions, support for manpower development etc. The details are available at the Department of Development of North Eastern Region's website: **www.northeast.nic.in**

The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India had also announced an Agenda for socio-economic development of the North Eastern Region on 22nd January 2000 at Shillong. The Agenda covers 28 Programmes/Schemes relating to the Development of the Power Sector, Border Trade, Horticulture, Rural Infrastructure, Roads and Air-Links, Medical and Health Services, Industrial Training Institutes, Information Technology, Border Fencing and Upgradation of Police Infastructure. The details are available at the Prime Minister's Office website: **www.pmindia.nic.in**

(c) and (d) Due to difficult topographical and geographical conditions as well as on account of some other reasons, some pockets of North Eastern Region are less developed. However, to improve the connectivity in the States in North Eastern Region, roads are being funded by North Eastern Council and under Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR), Central Road Fund and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) etc. As a special dispensation to North Eastern Region including Sikkim, the minimum requirement of providing connectivity to villages have been relaxed from minimum population of 500 to 250.

Construction of bridges and roads in NER

230. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal from the Govermment of Assam has been received for construction of a bridge at Daria of Majuli Island and improvement of NLK road;

(b) if so, the total outlay of receipt and date of saction;

(c) the status of the survey made by NEC on the construction of bridge over Lohit and Khabolu indicating sactioned amount, expenditure made year-wise and target set to construct the bridge during the Tenth Plan period; and

(d) the amount earmarked for implementation of the project?

THE MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. C. P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) the Government of Assam had submitted list of projects for funding under NLCPR for financial year, 2002-2003. Construction of RCC Bridge No. 37/1 over Doria Channel on North Lakhimpur Kamlabari (NLK) Road at an estimated cost of Rs. 3.23 crore was included in that list. Considering the competing demands from other priority sectors like Power, Urban Development, Health, Water Supply, etc. and considering the resource constraints and already committed liability in the roads sectors in Assam, the proposal has not been taken up during the current financial year.

(c) and (d) Survey for the bridge over Lohit and Kabuli has been completed. Model Study has been taken up by University of Roorkee. A sum of Rs. 53 lakhs has been released to the Government of Assam for the completion of the study. No target has been fixed for completion of the bridge.

Disinvestment of State undertakings

231. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Miniter of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Goverments are not pursuing the disinvestment route properly and hidden subsidies of Rs. 7,000 crores annually are being given to the State undertakings as mentioned by the Minister of Commerce and Industry; and

(b) if so, whether Government are issuing any guidelines for effective disinvestment of the State undertakings and how far Government have succeded to meets the target of Rs. 12,000 disinvestment of the Cental PSUs?